

Washington, DC -- Today, U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri voted for the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007 (S. 5), which would authorize federal funding for life-saving stem cell research and enhance ethical guidelines for such research. The legislation now moves to the President's desk to await his signature to become law.

"Traveling throughout the 24th district I've met many families affected by life-threatening and debilitating illnesses who have asked me to fight for the life-saving promise of stem cell research," said Arcuri. "The enormous potential of stem cell research gives hope to children with diabetes and men and women with life-threatening and debilitating diseases like Lupus and Parkinson's. People in Upstate New York support ethically responsible, life-saving research. I urge the President to stand with families in Upstate New York, sign this bill, and give hope to millions of Americans."

In January, Arcuri cosponsored, along with 207 Democrats and 13 Republicans, H.R. 3 which would have also authorized federal funding for stem cell research. That legislation passed the House with bipartisan support.

The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007 would require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct and support research that utilizes human embryonic stem cells, which are destined for destruction, regardless of the date on which the stem cells were derived from a human embryo.

This bill contains stringent ethical standards and limits research to stem cells that meet the following ethical requirements:

- Stem cells must be derived from human embryos donated from in vitro fertilization clinics for the purpose of fertility treatment and are in excess of the needs of the individuals seeking such treatment.
- Embryos would never be implanted in a woman and would otherwise be discarded.

- Individuals donate the embryos with written informed consent and receive no financial or other inducements.

S. 5 seeks to expand all forms of stem cell research and requires the Secretary to develop techniques for the isolation, derivation, production, or testing of stem cells that are not derived from a human embryo, but that are capable of producing all or almost all of the cell types of the developing body and may result in improved understanding of treatments for diseases and other adverse health conditions.

Arcuri's remarks on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives in support of S.5, as prepared for delivery, are attached below:

U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (NY-24)

In the House of Representatives

Rule for Consideration of S.5, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act

June 7, 2007

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this rule and the underlying bill, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act.

I've listened to stories from around my Upstate New York district from families affected by life-threatening and debilitating illnesses: children with childhood diabetes and men and women with spinal cord injuries, Lupus, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. Every day, these brave

Americans fight the odds with the hope that stem cell research will one day give them a new lease on life.

The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act would ensure that our nation's scientists are able to work towards making that hope a reality.

Most importantly, this bill creates an ethical framework – stronger than the President's current policy – which must be followed in conducting this life-saving research. The bill only authorizes the use of stem cell lines generated from embryos that would otherwise be discarded by fertility clinics and requires written, informed consent from the donating woman. My constituents support this ethically responsible, life-saving research and I stand with them today in giving hope to millions of people around the country.

Mr. Speaker, the message from the American people is clear. It is time for this Administration to do the right thing and sign this critically important bill into law.

Thank you. I yield back the balance of my time.

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